

# A hunt for Sitka Black-Tailed Deer

## Kodiak Island, Alaska



Oct .. \_Nov .., 2017

## Intro

In late October of 2017, my good friend Bob asked if I'd be interested in filling a cancellation on a Kodiak Island Sitka Black-tailed boat-based deer hunt. After asking my wife Sally she said: "I can't think of any reason you shouldn't go." So I was "In" and soon checking on commercial flights less than a week away.

Here are a few slides of this wonderful hunt in the company of some fine men.

Flying out to the boat in the Beaver....



Kodiak terminal after getting of the Alaska Airlines flight from Anchorage.





This was a boat hunt and we flew to the boat in two Beavers. There were five of us on the hunt. This is the Kodiak seaplane base.



Our group of five hunters about to leave for the hunt.





Flying past the Kodiak airport.



The higher mountains on the island have a few glaciers on them.





The group before us loading up after we unloaded our gear. The yellow skiff is used to go back and forth from the Spirit and the beach.



The 62' Spirit will be our home for the next week; a great way to hunt Kodiak deer.





I shot this buck the first day. He's a bigger than average Sitka Blacktail. Each of us could shoot up to three bucks.





Taking a break on the pack out down to the beach.





All the bucks get a ride out to the beach on our backs. This was my  
61<sup>st</sup> birthday.



Bob shot the biggest buck of the hunt with this very nice 3x4. He used his Lilja barreled 6.5x284. Our shots ranged from very close to 375 yards or so.





My second buck was another 3x3 of about the same size as the first.





Awaiting a pickup with the skiff. The Spirit is in the distance.





These divots are Kodiak bear tracks. Generations of bears have trod this same path.  
We saw 7 bears and one of the other hunters lost a deer to a bear.





Kodiak is a beautiful island. The deer eat very well here and every buck we shot had inches of rump fat. They're excellent table fare.



The view is beautiful which ever way you look.





Back on the Spirit after a day's hunt. The five of us took 13 bucks. We could have easily shot 3 each but a couple of us were looking for a big buck. I found the dandy 4 point shed strapped to my pack. A buck like this on both sides would probably be a B&C Sitka Blacktail.





Here's the nice 4-point shed I found. It was up fairly high on the ridge.



Skiff ride back to the Spirit.





Low tide on the beach; pristine loneliness.



Some of our gear waiting for the Beaver pickup. Our deer are in the plastic tubs. The Widgeon taxiing in was picking up some bear hunters.





Leaving the Spirit for the Kodiak seaplane base. A day earlier it blew 40+ knots all day and the planes didn't fly. Fortunately it layed down for our pickup day.



A great hunt with a great group of guys.





Back at the seaplane base and unloading or gear.



# So Long From the Beautiful Kodiak Island!

